

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 215719

FOR AMBASSADOR SCRANTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT KUALA LUMPUR 4930 ACTION SECSTATE JAKARTA
SINGAPORE GENEVA INFO BANGKOK 29 AUG 1976.

QUOTE UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 4930

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF MY ID

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES: "CHOU LONG" AND BOAT OF 95

REF: A. JAKARTA 11302 (NOTAL)

B. KUALA LUMPUR 4928

C. STATE 213349

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REF A WE IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED MISS FRASER
OF LOCAL UNHCR OFFICER AND CONVERVED DETAILS OF SINKING OF REFUGEE
BOAT "CHOU-LONG" AND RESCUE BY AUSTRALIAN REGISTRY AGIP
SUPPLY SHIP "LADY CYNTHIA" WHICH NOW HEADING FOR SINGAPORE. SHE
PROMISED CONVEY INFORMATION TO UNHCR REP SAMPATKUMAR WHO SHE
BELIEVES WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HER THIS MORNING (AUG 29) BUT
WHOSE CURRENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN. MEANWHILE SHE IS TRYING TO
ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION HERE.

2. MFA HAS INFORMED US THAT MALAYSIAN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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HAS ISSUED DIRECTIVE ORDERING REFUGEE BOAT OF 95 THAT ARRIVED

AT KUALA TRENGGANU JULY 25 AND CURRENTLY AT KUALA KEMAMAN TO BE TAKEN TO SEA SOMETIME ON MONDAY AUG 30. (TOTAL ABOARD NOW CITED AS EITHER 94 OR 93). EFFORTS TO SEEK AT LEAST POSTPONEMENT THIS ACTION UNSUCCESSFUL AND EMBASSY SENDING OFFICER TO EAST COAST MORNING AUG 29 TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS, IDEALLY OF ALL ABOARD, IN ADDITION TO TWO FAMILIES WITH KNOW TIES WITH US. MFA INDICATES NSC NOT RPT NOT INCLINED WITHDRAW DIRECTIVE TO EXPELL THIS GROUP OF REFUGEES. MISS FRASER ALSO WILL BRIEF SAMPATKUMAR ON THIS SUPRISE DEVELOPMENT.

3. FOR GENEVA; PLEASE CONVEY FOREGOING TO UNHCR ASAP.

4. ON BRIGHTER SIDE, 73 REFUGEES APPROVED UNDER EPP DEPARTED MORNING AUG 29 VIA THA A INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT TO BANGKOK TO CONNECT WITH FLIGHT TO US. UNDERHILL UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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